

Appl. No. 10/044,651
Art Unit: 3682

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Attachment C-1
Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A hydraulic tensioner comprising a body having a cylindrical hole, and a hollow cup-shaped metallic cylinder fitted to said cylindrical hole, said hollow cylinder having a bottom plate and hollow cylindrical wall and a bottom plate formed as one piece with said cylinder, an external diameter corresponding to the diameter of said cylindrical hole, and said wall having an internal diameter providing an interior wall around said hollow cylinder, a plunger provided within the cylinder, and a compression spring within said internal diameter to engage said plunger and urge an outer end of the plunger to protrude from the body, the inner end of the plunger forming a pressure oil chamber within said interior wall between the inner end of the plunger and the cylinder bottom plate,

said cylinder bottom plate having a through-hole allowing the inflow of oil into the inner end of said pressure chamber, the outer end of said pressure chamber being closed by said plunger, and the bottom plate being prevented from dropping out from the body by being engaged by said compression spring bearing against the outward surface of said bottom plate between said hollow cylindrical wall and said through-hole.

2. (Currently Amended) A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 1 wherein said cylindrical hole of the body has a bottom at its inner end provided with an inlet hole smaller in diameter than the diameter of said cylindrical hole, said through-hole of said cylinder registering with said inlet hole, and a check valve mechanism abutting the inward surface of said bottom plate of said cylinder, fitted to the inlet hole and prevented from dropping out by the abutment on the bottom plate of said cylinder.

3. (Previously Amended) A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 1 including an inflow hole in the bottom of said cylindrical hole of the body, and a check valve mechanism allowing the inflow of oil to the pressure oil chamber but arresting the back flow thereof,

said check valve mechanism comprising a check ball mounted to block inflow hole from above and a spring for energizing the check ball; and
said spring being supported by said bottom plate.

4. (Previously Amended) A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 3, wherein said check valve mechanism further comprises a retainer supported by said bottom plate and having a top spaced from said bottom plate, said check ball and spring being supported between said top and said bottom plate.

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5. **(Previously Amended)** A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 3, said check valve mechanism comprising a check ball mounted to engage in and block the through-hole formed in the bottom plate from above, and a retainer mounted on said bottom plate for supporting the spring.

6. **(Previously Amended)** A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 1 wherein a ratchet tooth is engraved in the outside surface of the plunger, and including a ratchet pawl pivoted on said body and a spring biasing said pawl toward said ratchet tooth in order to prevent the backward displacement of the plunger.

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a cutout in said hollow cylinder for allowing the ratchet pawl body to engage with the ratchet tooth, and a pair of protruding pieces having mount holes and extending outward from the cutout on said cylinder, and a shaft inserted in said mount holes of the protruding pieces to pivotally mount said ratchet pawl body.

7. **(Previously Amended)** A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 1, wherein said tensioner body is a die-cast product and said cylinder is metallic.

8. **(Previously Amended)** A hydraulic tensioner according to claim 1, wherein said tensioner body is a molded synthetic resin and said cylinder is metallic.